

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US-USSR TEACHER EXCHANGE

1. CU/EE IS POUCHING EMBASSY REPORT ON THE AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE (AFS) 1975 US-USSR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER EXCHANGE PROGRAM WHICH WAS FUNDED, IN PART, BY A CU GRANT-IN-AID OF DOLS 12,520. IN 1975 SIX US AND SIX SOVIET TEACHERS WERE EXCHANGED FOR TWO MONTHS EACH. AFS HOPES TO CONTINUE AND EXPAND THIS PROGRAM, AND IS AGAIN SEEKING A CU GRANT.

2. THIS EXCHANGE WAS INITIATED BY THE AMERICAN FRIENDS COMMITTEE (QUAKERS) IN 1961, AND TURNED OVER TO AFS IN 1972. SINCE 1961 40 SOVIET AND 43 US TEACHERS HAVE BEEN EXCHANGED. SIXTY-SEVEN US SCHOOLS HAVE HOSTED A SOVIET TEACHER OF RUSSIAN, AND 36 SOVIET SCHOOLS HAVE HOSTED AN AMERICAN TEACHER OF ENGLISH. THE EXCHANGE IS PARTIALLY FUNDED BY THE PARTICIPATING AMERICAN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES AND SOVIET TEACHERS LIVE WITH AMERICAN FAMILIES. FOR THE 1976 EXCHANGE, COSTS WILL BE DOLS 1,798 PER US TEACHER, AND DOLS 1,464 PER SOVIET TEACHER, WHICH IS CONSIDERABLY UNCLASSIFIED

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LOWER THAN IF EXCHANGE WERE CONDUCTED AND FULLY FUNDED BY

USG. DESPITE CONTINUED INQUIRIES BY CU/EE, IT APPEARS THAT THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (NEA) IS NO LONGER INTERESTED IN CONDUCTING SUCH AN EXCHANGE, AND AFS APPEARS

TO BE THE BEST PROSPECT FOR CONTINUING THIS MODEST START IN TEACHER EXCHANGE. FOR EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS, WE CALL EMBASSY'S ATTENTION TO THE REPORT OF ONE AMERICAN TEACHER'S EXPERIENCE IN KIEV (ATTACHED TO POUCHED REPORT), WHICH OUTLINES ON AN HOUR-BY-HOUR BASIS, HIS SEVEN WEEKS SPENT TEACHING ENGLISH AT THE KIEV STATE PEDAGOGICAL INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES. ALSO ATTACHED ARE PRESS CLIPPINGS ON THE EXPERIENCES OF SOVIET TEACHERS IN THE US.

3. ON RECEIPT OF POUCHED MATERIAL, WE SUGGEST EMBASSY CALL ON MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND REQUEST CLARIFICATION OF MINISTRY'S INTENTIONS RE FUTURE OF AFS EXCHANGE. AFS HOPES TO EXPAND THE EXCHANGE, AND MOST EFFECTIVE WAY FOR BOTH US AND SOVIET SIDES WOULD BE BY LENGTHENING THE PERIOD OF STAY FROM THE CURRENT TWO MONTHS TO FOUR OR FIVE MONTHS (EARLY SEPTEMBER TO END OF DECEMBER OR END OF JANUARY). EMBASSY MAY WISH TO POINT OUT THAT THE EXCHANGE OF TEACHERS IS MENTIONED IN CURRENT PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES UNDER INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT. TEACHER EXCHANGE IS ALSO MENTIONED IN CSCE FINAL ACT. AFS HAS AMPLE EXPERIENCE IN RUNNING THE PROGRAM AND A GOOD US COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION TO BACKSTOP IT. SOVIET TEACHERS, WHO TEACH RUSSIAN LANGUAGE IN US SCHOOLS, WOULD CONTRIBUTE MORE TO SOVIET STATED OBJECTIVE OF ENCOURAGING RUSSIAN LANGUAGE STUDY IN THE US BY STAYING FOR LONGER PERIOD. EMBASSY MAY ALSO INFORM MINISTRY OF DEPT PARTIAL FUNDING OF AFS PROGRAM AS EVIDENCE OF OUR SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAM. THIS, AS WELL AS THE CSCE CONNECTION, MAY PROVIDE IMPETUS FOR SOVIET DECISION TO EXPAND THE PROGRAM.

4. CU/EE IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE ITS MODEST AND COST-EFFECTIVE GRANT TO AFS TO MAINTAIN THE PROGRAM AT CURRENT LEVEL BY LENGTHENING PERIOD OF STAY. PLEASE ADVISE. KISSINGER

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